

Serial No.: 09/745,006

Docket No.: KCC-14,083

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The article in accordance with Claim 3, wherein a width of said pocket traverses substantially an entire width of said back region.

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3. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising:
an elongated material having two enlarged end portions and a narrowed portion intermediate said two enlarged end portions, one of said two enlarged end portions corresponding to a back region of said absorbent article; and
said elongated material comprising a fluid impermeable backsheet, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to one side of said fluid impermeable backsheet, and a flap sheet attached to said fluid permeable body-side liner by point bonds at opposed peripheral edges of the flap sheet, said flap sheet including two opposed pleats and being expandable in a direction away from said fluid impermeable backsheet proximate said back region of said absorbent article, whereby the pleats define a pocket ~~therebetween~~ between the flap sheet and the body-side liner for collection of fecal matter;

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wherein the two opposed pleats are ~~along opposite sides of said pocket~~
and disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said elongated
material.

01 4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article in
accordance with Claim 3, wherein at least one of said flap sheet, said fluid
impermeable backsheet and said fluid permeable body-side liner comprises a
nonwoven material.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article in
accordance with Claim 4, wherein said nonwoven material is selected from the group
consisting of spunbond, meltblown, bonded carded web and combinations thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article in
accordance with Claim 3, wherein said fluid permeable body-side liner is a multi-layer
material comprising an absorbent layer and a fluid permeable top sheet, said absorbent
layer being disposed between said fluid impermeable backsheet and said fluid
permeable top sheet.

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7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article in accordance with Claim 3, wherein said flap sheet is fluid impermeable.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:
a fluid impermeable outer cover, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to said fluid impermeable outer cover and a flap sheet attached to said fluid permeable body-side liner by point bonds at opposed peripheral edges of the flap sheet, said flap sheet including two opposed discrete pleats and expandable in a direction away from said fluid impermeable outer cover whereby a pocket is defined between the discrete pleats and formed inside said disposable diaper between the flap sheet and the body-side liner and proximate a back region of said disposable diaper;
wherein the discrete pleats are disposed along opposed sides of said pocket and substantially parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said diaper.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The disposable diaper in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said pocket substantially traverses an entire width of said back region of said disposable diaper.

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11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The disposable diaper in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said flap sheet comprises a nonwoven web.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The disposable diaper in accordance with Claim 11, wherein said nonwoven web is selected from the group consisting of spunbond, meltblown, bonded carded web and combinations thereof.

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13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The disposable diaper in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said fluid permeable body-side liner is a multi-layer material comprising an absorbent layer and a fluid permeable top sheet, said absorbent layer being disposed between said fluid impermeable outer cover and said fluid permeable top sheet.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The disposable diaper in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said flap sheet is fluid impermeable.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a disposable absorbent article comprising the steps of:

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forming a substantially rectangular multi-layer material comprising a fluid impermeable backsheet, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to one side of said fluid impermeable backsheet, and a flap sheet attached to said fluid permeable body-side liner whereby said body-side liner is disposed between said fluid impermeable backsheet and said flap sheet;

01 removing a portion of said material from opposed longitudinal edges of said substantially rectangular multi-layer material, producing two enlarged end portions and a narrowed portion intermediate said two enlarged end portions, one of said enlarged end portions corresponding to a back region of said disposable absorbent article; and

forming at least two discrete longitudinal pleats in said flap sheet proximate said back region along opposed sides of said flap sheet, the longitudinal pleats defining a pocket between said flap sheet and said body-side liner.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with Claim 15, wherein at least one layer of said multi-layer material comprises a nonwoven material.

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17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of spunbond, meltblown, bonded carded web and combinations thereof.

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18. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising:
an elongated material having two enlarged end portions and a narrowed portion intermediate the two enlarged end portions, one of the two enlarged end portions corresponding to a back region of the absorbent article; and

the elongated material comprising a fluid impermeable backsheet, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to one side of the fluid impermeable backsheet, and a pocket sheet having opposed peripheral edges, the opposed peripheral edges attached by point bonds to the fluid permeable body-side liner, and at least two opposed pleats in the pocket sheet along opposite sides of the pocket sheet and disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal centerline of the elongated material, whereby the pocket sheet is expandable in a direction away from the fluid impermeable backsheet and the pleats of the pocket sheet define peripheral sides, respectively, of a pocket between the pocket sheet and the body-side liner for collection of fecal matter.